

“(A) metabolic engineering of biological systems (including the safe use of genetically modified crops) to produce novel products, especially commodity products, or to increase product selectivity and tolerance, with a research priority on the development of biobased industrial products that can compete in performance and cost with fossil-based products;

“(B) catalytic processing to convert intermediates of biomass processing into products of interest;

“(C) separation technologies for cost-effective product recovery and purification;

“(D) approaches other than metabolic engineering and catalytic conversion of intermediates of biomass processing;

“(E) advanced biomass gasification technologies, including coproduction of power and heat as an integrated component of biomass processing, with the possibility of generating excess electricity for sale; and

“(F) related research in advanced turbine and stationary fuel cell technology for production of electricity from biomass; and

“(3) research aimed at ensuring the environmental performance and economic viability of biobased industrial products and their raw material input of biomass when considered as an integrated system, including research on—

“(A) the analysis of, and strategies to enhance, the environmental performance and sustainability of biobased industrial products, including research on—

“(i) accurate measurement and analysis of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, and carbon cycling in relation to the life cycle of biobased industrial products and feedstocks with respect to other alternatives;

“(ii) evaluation of current and future biomass resource availability;

“(iii) development and analysis of land management practices and alternative biomass cropping systems that ensure the environmental performance and sustainability of biomass production and harvesting;

“(iv) land, air, water, and biodiversity impacts of large-scale biomass production, processing, and use of biobased industrial products relative to other alternatives; and

“(v) biomass gasification and combustion to produce electricity;

“(B) the analysis of, and strategies to enhance, the economic viability of biobased industrial products, including research on—

“(i) the cost of the required process technology;

“(ii) the impact of coproducts, including food, animal feed, and fiber, on biobased industrial product price and large-scale economic viability; and

“(iii) interactions between an emergent biomass refining industry and the petrochemical refining infrastructure; and

“(C) the field and laboratory research related to feedstock production with the interrelated goals of enhancing the sustainability, increasing productivity, and decreasing the cost of biomass processing, including research on—

“(i) altering biomass to make biomass easier and less expensive to process;

“(ii) existing and new agricultural and energy crops that provide a sustainable resource for conversion to biobased industrial products while simultaneously serving as a source for coproducts such as food, animal feed, and fiber;

“(iii) improved technologies for harvest, collection, transport, storage, and handling of crop and residue feedstocks; and

“(iv) development of economically viable cropping systems that improve the conservation and restoration of marginal land; or

“(4) Any research and development in technologies or processes determined by the Sec-

retary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, acting through their respective points of contact and in consultation with the Board, to be consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b) and priorities described in subsection (c)(2)(B).

“(e) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER TO AGRICULTURAL USERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall ensure that applicable research results and technologies from the Initiative are adapted, made available, and disseminated through their respective Services, as appropriate.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall report to the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over the Initiative on the activities conducted by the Services under this subsection.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funding provided for biomass research and development under the general authority of the Secretary of Energy to conduct research and development and demonstration programs (which may also be used to carry out this title), there are also authorized to be appropriated \$49,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2005 to carry out this title.

“SEC. 8. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent administrative support and funds are not provided by other agencies under subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture may provide such administrative support and funds of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to the Board and the Advisory Committee as are necessary to enable the Board and the Advisory Committee to carry out this title.

“(b) OTHER AGENCIES.—The heads of the agencies referred to, or appointed under, paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 5(b) may, and are encouraged to, provide administrative support and funds of their respective agencies to the Board and the Advisory Committee.

“SEC. 9. REPORTS.

“For each fiscal year that funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly transmit to Congress a detailed report on—

“(1) the status and progress of the Initiative, including a certification from the Board that funds authorized for the Initiative and distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Initiative; and

“(2) the general status of cooperation and research efforts carried out by each Secretary with respect to sustainable fuels, chemicals, and electricity derived from biomass, including a certification from the Board that the points of contact are funding proposals that are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers.

“SEC. 10. SUNSET.

“This Act and the authority conferred by this Act shall terminate on December 31, 2005.

“TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ETHANOL RESEARCH PILOT PLANT

“There are authorized to be appropriated to construct a Department of Agriculture corn-based ethanol research pilot plant a total of \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and subsequent fiscal years.”.

SEC. 2. TITLE.

Amend the title as to read: “To authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.”

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the President's proposed FY 2001 budget for the U.S. Forest Service. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, beginning at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish to submit written statements, should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey, Professional Staff Member, at (202) 224-2878.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2001 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, to conduct a hearing on “the financial marketplace of the future.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing. The committee will consider the President's proposed budget for FY2001 for the U.S. Forest Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Tuesday, February 29 at 10:00 a.m. to hear testimony regarding Competition in the Medicare Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. to markup the Committee's letter to the Budget Committee regarding funding for Indian programs for FY 2001. The meeting will be held in the Committee room, 485 Russell Senate Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 1:00 p.m., in SD-226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will consider the President's proposed budget for FY2001 for National Park Service programs and operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. in open session to receive testimony on the Department of Energy's fiscal year 2001 budget request for the Office of Environmental Management in review of the fiscal year 2001 defense authorization request and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE HIGDON

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to fellow Kentuckian Steve Higdon on his recent success in becoming president and chief executive officer of Greater Louisville, Inc.

Steve Higdon grew up in Hikes Point and graduated from Trinity High School. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky and began work with Yellow Freight Systems in Louisville after college.

Steve made his way to the top of the Louisville business world through hard work and determination. After his work at Yellow Freight Systems, he held several positions of leadership within the United Parcel Service (UPS), including economic development manager. Steve's work at UPS led to his involvement with Greater Louisville, Inc., and to his being hired as executive vice president for economic development and chief operating officer.

Many of Steve's colleagues have noted his extraordinary leadership skills. Steve's co-workers at UPS and colleagues within Greater Louisville, Inc. have all spoken of his drive and ambition, his work ethic and intelligence. From everything I've observed, Steve deserves all of these compliments—and more. He has taken on a huge responsibility in the Louisville community, and his past experience and success is a sign of good things to come for the city, its residents and its workers.

Steve also is involved in efforts to build a better Louisville community. He holds positions on the Workforce Investment Board, Housing Partnership Board, Kentucky Industrial Development Council, Industrial Development Research Council, and the Trinity High School Alumni association. This is further evidence that Steve's commitment to the community goes beyond mere business interests—he genuinely cares about Louisville's children and families.

Steve, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, thank you for your dedicated service to Louisville and to the people of Kentucky. I have every confidence in your ability to lead Greater Louisville, Inc. and its efforts to build great accomplishments and successes in the years to come.

Mr. President, I also ask that an article which ran in the Louisville Courier-Journal on Sunday, January 30, 2000, appear in the record following my remarks.

The article follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Jan. 30, 2000]

GREATER LOUISVILLE GREW NEW LEADER FROM THE INSIDE—STEVE HIGDON LOVES TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE

(By David Goetz)

Steve Higdon, the new man in charge of Louisville's economic future, speaks the lan-

guage of development in a broadcast-quality baritone. He moves seamlessly from discussions of work-force issues to business retention to the prospects of city-county merger.

But if you watch him speak as well as listen, you can catch glimpses in his gestures of the airport baggage handler he was not too many years ago. He seems to grab his words as he speaks them bracketing them between his hands or rolling them up in front of him. Then he hands them to you, or takes them to heart, or just places them here and there like a man sorting bundles.

Higdon, 37, is the new president and chief executive officer of Greater Louisville, Inc., a hometown guy whose love of long distances shaped a business career in shipping and distribution that never took him very far from home.

He's not too far removed in years or though from the college graduate of 1987 who found himself bossing men twice his age on the loading dock of Yellow Freight Systems at 35th and Duval streets in Louisville.

"It was the most stressful job I've ever had," Higdon recalled last week in his modest new office, a passable view of Sixth Street over his shoulder, business cards on his desk still identifying him in his former job as the non-profit corporation's head of economic development.

"I was very young and green, there were the hours, managing Teamsters whose average on the job was 25 to 30 years," Higdon continued. "The productivity goals were extremely tough."

He was young and it would have been easy to quit, Higdon said, but he had already developed a sense of having a career rather than just a job.

"I didn't know what the career was, but I knew I would have to be responsible," he said. "I knew I would have to work my way through it."

It was the beginning of a career that eventually placed Higdon with air carrier UPS and brought him into contact with the old Greater Louisville Economic Development Partnership.

There he garnered the notice and respect of entrepreneur Doug Cobb, who had signed on as president of Greater Louisville Inc., in 1997 when the partnership merged with the Chamber of Commerce to create a unified front for Louisville's business-support and economic-development efforts.

Cobb said he wasn't intentionally grooming a successor when he hired Higdon to run the development side of Greater Louisville Inc., in 1997.

"I called Steve because he had a good idea of what was going on" in Louisville, Cobb said. "But when you find out what people can do and you ask them to do more, which they do well, they just naturally grow into leadership."

Higdon is "maybe the most impressive executive I've ever worked with," Cobb said. "He's a great organizer. He knows how to figure out what needs to be done and get it done. He's good judge of talent."

Higdon has "a lot of the leadership characteristics that make the difference," said LG&E Energy Corp. executive Steve Wood, chairman of Greater Louisville, Inc.'s economic development committee.

"To be a successful executive, you have to out-work and out-think the competition, in this case, other jurisdictions competing for new business," Wood said. "I don't think you can outwork him. His energy level's extremely high, and he's as bright as they come."

Retired banker and civic leader Malcolm Chancey advocated a broader, national search for Cobb's successor, but he praised Higdon's energy and talent.

"If he has the right kind of support, he'll be successful," Chancey said. "I hope everybody will support him. I certainly will."